

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

- AGAINST -

A F F I D A V I T

ARAKI, SADAQ, et al)

I, WAKATSUKI, Reijiro, do swear on my conscience that the following is true:

I was Prime Minister of Japan from April 1931 to December 1931. It was the policy of my government to put into effect the budget prepared by the HAMAGUCHI Cabinet which preceded me in office. The effect of this budget was to reduce the money allotted to the Army.

When the Mukden Incident broke out on 18 September 1931 the first the Cabinet knew about it was on the day following the outbreak on September 19. At this time my War Minister, General MINAMI, Jiro, reported to the Cabinet that Chinese bandit troops had fired on Japanese troops at Mukden and their fire had been returned. The Cabinet agreed this had in it the elements of a very serious situation and expressed the desire to the aforesaid War Minister MINAMI that the affair be terminated at once. To this the aforesaid General MINAMI agreed. The next day the Cabinet met again and the aforesaid General MINAMI reported that for strategic and tactical reasons it had been necessary for the Japanese Imperial Forces to pursue the Chinese troops a certain distance into Chinese territory. That this was only a protective measure and would in no sense be expanded.

On the next day the Cabinet met again and the aforesaid General MINAMI reported further expansion but stated again it would not be enlarged upon. This same performance was repeated on the 22nd.

On the night of September 22 General HAYASHI, Commander in Chief of the Korean Army moved his Army across the Yalu River, thereby invading Manchuria. This fact was reported to the Cabinet by the aforesaid General MINAMI on the 23rd of September, the next day. The aforesaid General MINAMI told the Cabinet it was true that the aforesaid General HAYASHI had moved without the Imperial sanction or without authority from the Cabinet or the War Minister or the Chief of Staff but that he, the aforesaid General HAYASHI, had received an urgent request from the Kwantung Army for aid and had personally deemed the situation of such an emergent nature that it justified peremptory action on his part.

At this time it was the unanimous sense of the Cabinet that these operations in Manchuria must cease immediately and the aforesaid War Minister General MINAMI agreed to put this Cabinet policy into effect with the Army at once. However, day after day expansion continued and I, the Prime Minister, had various conferences with the aforesaid War Minister, General MINAMI. I was shown maps daily on which the aforesaid General MINAMI would show by a line a boundary which the Army in Manchuria would not go beyond and almost daily this boundary line was ignored and further expansion was reported but always with assurances that this was the final move,

At this time the Vice Minister of War was Lt. General SUGIYAMA, Hajime; the Chief of the Army General Staff was General KANAYA, Hanzo; the Vice Chief of the Army General Staff was General MINOMIYA, Harushige; and the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau was General KOISO, Kuniaki.

I tried everything I could think of in an effort to control this situation but without success. My last move was to try to form a coalition Cabinet with the Seiyukai Party, hoping that with the combined strength of the Konseito and Seiyukai Parties I would be able to control the Army in Manchuria but various Cabinet members were unwilling to form such a coalition so this measure failed.

At this time the situation stood thusly: the policy of my Cabinet had never varied on the Manchurian question. My Cabinet had unanimously opposed any expansion by the Army and had, day after day, been unceasing in its efforts to terminate aggressive operations in that territory. Further, the aforesaid War Minister MINAMI had failed to control the Army in Manchuria and had not carried out the unanimous policy of the Cabinet in this matter, therefore, I resigned as Prime Minister and my Cabinet with me.

s/ R. Watatsuki
WAKATSUKI, Reijiro

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above-named WAKATSUKI, Reijiro at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 18th day of June, 1946.

s/ Arthur A. S-andusky, Captain, JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Makoto M. Kimura, HEREBY CERTIFY That I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named WAKATSUKI, Reijiro in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said WAKATSUKI, Reijiro stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said WAKATSUKI, Reijiro was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 18th day of June, 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

s/ Makoto M. Kimura